THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The students of MBBS course in Tamil Nadu went on strike to protest against the proposal of the Government regarding compulsory rural posting before grant of permanent registration to doctors.

(c) and (d) In order to elicit opinion of the student community, medical faculty and other stakeholders on the proposal of introduction of compulsory rural posting of fresh medical graduates a High Level Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Health Services. On the basis of the report submitted by the Committee, to ensure availability of doctors in rural areas of the country, the Government has in principle decided that one year combined rural posting in Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres under the State Government shall be mandatory condition for MBBS doctors for eligibility to admission in Post graduate medical courses.

Medicines at affordable prices

75. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts to develop various forms of medicines as an affordable health tool for the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Government is committed to overall health benefits to common man. The prime objective of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is to meet this goal through various systems of medicines prevalent/practiced in the country like allopathy, homoeopathy, Unani etc., since health is a State subject, the health departments of State Government also strive for the same. Required funds are provided on annual basis through budgetary allocation to this Ministry. Similarly, the State health departments also get required funds through State Governments.

New Policy for Development of Cottage Industry

76. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has evolved a new policy for the development of cottage industry on the basis of labour intensive techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would declare any such policy in near future; and

(d) if so, the target of coverage under this policy?